

Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission

Meeting of March 24, 2014 Minutes

Open Session

URI Main Campus
Pharmacy Building, Room 207
7 Greenhouse Rd, Kingston

Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission:

Dr. Clinton Chichester, Chairman
Dr. Nancy Breen, Commissioner
Dr. Stephen Mecca, Commissioner
Dr. Bahram Nassersharif, Commissioner & Vice Chairman
Dr. Yana Reshetnyak, Commissioner

Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center

Dr. Cameron Goodwin
Mr. Jeff Davis

Other

Dr. Anthony Nunes

Called to order at 8:32 AM.

Motion to approve open minutes of 3/24/2014 (Mecca, Nassersharif)
Motion passes (5-0)

1. Implementation of the policy and formation of the Space Utilization and Reallocation (SURE) Committee

Dr. Nassersharif stated that the committee/policy was approved about a year ago but the committee was never formed. Committee should include the RINSC director, and two commissioners. The committee is charged with looking at long term space plans to see where the center is heading. Dr. Goodwin wants to review policy and make comments as she had no input in the charge of the committee. Mr. Davis also commented that some things might be problematic, and suggested that since the staff is front line they should have some input, but were not consulted. Chair Chichester calls for volunteers from commissioners, he appoints Dr. Nassersharif and himself as the two commissioners to serve on this committee.

2. Director's Report

Director Goodwin gave her report

Utilization: She listed the various users of the facility from January to the present date, the users included small companies, high schools, URI physics classes, URI undergraduate and a URI nuclear engineering capstone student and a local boy scout troop.

Inspections: State URI broad scope license completed, NRC health physics inspection recently. One item came up, even though Terry Tehan, Jeff Davis and Michael

Middleton were listed on the correspondence with the NRC as to be a reviewing official, the NRC never processed Jeff. After Director Tehan retired, no one had that authority, but this proved to not be problematic. Dr. Goodwin was recently approved as a reviewing official for unescorted access so the problem is solved. Dr. Goodwin is in discussion with NRC to see if RINSC will be given a violation.

This led into a discussion as to who has keys and to what.

Security: Dr. Goodwin reported that the security system is in the process of being upgraded. Siemens was awarded the contract, and will start in a few weeks, she expects it to be completed by August and it must be completed by the end of the current federal fiscal year (9/30/14).

Budget: The budget meeting with RI House took place a few weeks ago, RINSC is likely to be allocated 1.27 million, no final approval yet. Last years budget was 1.225 million, the additional money is slated for capital improvements. Some of the extra money from this year's budget is being used to make IT upgrades and URI IT personnel will be used to perform these upgrades.

3. User Prioritization Policy

Dr. Goodwin had been asked to formalize a user prioritization policy, the policy was presented and discussed. Dr. Nassersharif suggests schools outside RI should be last, below RI researchers and private companies. It was pointed out that this would go against a long standing first come first serve policy and might possibly discourage people from learning about nuclear science outside RI and as long as there was availability all interested users should be accommodated. It was noted that scheduling problems last fall might have been due to lack of an RSO on site and the RINSC being under staffed.

Dr. Goodwin will talk with Jennifer Sternick about the potential wording that would be used to move the schools from outside of RI lower on the list and Mr. Davis will look into language about directives resulting from federal funding.

This topic will be discussed at a future meeting.

4. Succession policy

Dr. Goodwin had formalized a Succession policy. It was suggested that the first step should be to inform RIAEC if there is a change of leadership. Dr. Goodwin will add this and it will be discussed at a future meeting.

5. Budget review

RIAEC members use to get a 25–30 page document of proposed budget, but have not received anything of late. Dr. Goodwin will forward this years report.

6. License renewal status

Dr. Goodwin received a new RAI on Friday about the rabbit system which she will reply to. Goal is still to have license renewal completed this federal fiscal year (9/30/14)

7. Planning for the future

Dr. Clinton Chichester asked each commissioner to discuss their future uses of RINSC

Dr. Yana Reshetnyak

There may be a new professor hired who will use the facility in advanced physics labs, and it might also be used in 1 credit radiation safety course (medical physics), PHYS 483/484 and senior projects might also use the facility.

Dr. Bahram Nassersharif

Nuclear Engineering minor implemented in 2010, 12–13 graduates with the minor each year, 90 students in nuclear engineering, almost all courses have a lab component. Two new course proposals were submitted, Dr. Goodwin will teach both of these. A new nuclear engineering degree, might be approved for the 2015 Academic Year, this will require 4 new courses.

A proposal will be submitted to DOE to upgrade facility with neutron imaging facility, due April 3.

All agree that the long term needs for the facility is to be better plugged into national research programs (DOE, INL and NRC). For some programs, RINSC must be qualified through DOE, might possibly need upgrades i.e. 2MW to 5 MW.

Dr. Stephen Mecca

Providence College has no nuclear science program, the facility will continue to be used in advanced labs, sometimes for research for students pursuing a thesis. He suggested the facility needs a vision, and needs to be approachable, would like for people to walk in and see lab that is modern and competitive

Dr. Nancy Breen,

The needs of RWU will not likely change, Instrumental Analysis will continue to visit each spring to do NAA experiment

Dr. Chichester asks for presentation to the committee from Drs. Reshetnyak and Nassersharif about overlap between nuclear engineering and medical physics and possible future health physics programs

Discussion of commission membership (process and bylaws) tabled until next meeting as the time is 10:59. Dr. Mecca's appointment is up at the end of the month.

Next meeting April 1st 8:30–9:30

Move to adjourn (Nassersharif, Mecca) 11:03
Motion passes (5–0)

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Breen